

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Kerry White, on January 11, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 172 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Kerry White, Chair (R)
Rep. Zach Brown, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Theresa Manzella, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Bob Brown (R)
Rep. Virginia Court (D)
Rep. Willis Curdy (D)
Rep. Ross H. Fitzgerald (R)
Rep. John Fleming (D)
Rep. Kelly Flynn (R)
Rep. Wylie Galt (R)
Rep. Dale Mortensen (R)
Rep. Mark Noland (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lexi Goble, Committee Secretary
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 53, 1/2/2017; HB 54, 1/2/2017; HB 78, 1/2/2017
Executive Action: HB 38 Do Pass

HEARING ON HB 78

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:31 Rep. Ryan Lynch (D), HD 76, opened the hearing on HB 78, Revise temporary water right lease laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:05:03 Millie Heffner, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Opponents' Testimony:

00:08:17 Krista Lee Evan, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SWRC)
Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:10:25 Vice Chair. Z. Brown
00:10:54 Millie Heffner, DNRC
00:11:50 Vice Chair. Z. Brown
00:12:03 Chair White
00:12:48 Millie Heffner, DNRC
00:13:43 Chair White
00:13:49 Millie Heffner, DNRC
00:14:25 Rep. Flynn
00:15:33 Chair White

Closing by Sponsor:

00:15:47 Rep. Ryan Lynch

HEARING ON HB 53

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:16:23 Rep. Zach Brown (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on HB 53, Repeal assessment computation statute for conservation districts.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:17:59 Mark Bostrom, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
00:19:24 Jeff Wivholm, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

00:21:11 Vice Chair Z. Brown

HEARING ON HB 54

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:21:45 Rep. Zach Brown (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on HB 54, Revise water right abandonment laws to account for drought plans.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:23:02 Millie Heffner, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
 00:23:26 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SWRC)
 Association of Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI)
 00:25:53 Bryan Ohs, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)
 00:27:11 Adam Haight, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:28:08 Chair White
 00:28:57 Vice Chair. Z. Brown
 00:29:14 Chair White
 00:30:12 Vice Chair. Z. Brown
 00:31:18 Rep. Curdy
 00:31:45 Krista Lee Evans, SWRC, AGAI
 00:32:17 Chair White
 00:33:37 Krista Lee Evan, SWRC, AGAI
 00:33:47 Chair White
 00:33:49 Paul Azevedo, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
 00:36:00 Chair White
 00:36:08 Paul Azevedo, DNRC
 00:36:47 Vice Chair Manzella
 00:37:00 Vice Chair. Z. Brown

Closing by Sponsor:

00:38:04 Vice Chair. Z. Brown

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 38

Motion: Rep. Curdy moved that **HB 38 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

00:40:01 Rep. Fleming
 00:41:29 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Curdy moved that **HB 38 DO PASS**. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Rep. Gunderson and Rep. Windy Boy voted by proxy.
 00:42:00 Chair White
 00:43:10 Rep. Flynn
 00:43:20 Chair White

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00:48:13	Joe Kolman, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
00:48:35	Rep. B. Brown
00:48:57	Chair White
00:50:11	Rep. Flynn
00:50:44	Chair White
00:52:00	Joe Kolman, LSD
00:52:18	Chair White

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 00:55:11

Lexi Goble, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nah08aad.pdf](#))